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NASA SATELLITE TO BROADCAST U.N. CONFERENCE

The United Nations will use the world's most powerful communications satellite, CTS (Communications Technology Satellite), operated jointly by NASA and the Canadian Department of Communications, in a demonstration of satellite communications designed to evaluate the feasibility of remote simultaneous interpretation of a conference and the transmission by facsimile of conference documents for remote translation.

In this instance, the conference will be the U.N. Conference on Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Aug. 30 through Sept. 12.

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Mailed:
August 30, 1978

Also cooperating with the U.N. in the demonstration are COMSAT (Communications Satellite Corp.) and ENTEL, an Argentina state-owned telephone company.

During the conference, the picture and voice of the conferees will be sent to a portable NASA terminal located at U.N. Headquarters in New York City. What they say will be interpreted and translated there into five official U.N. languages and returned via CTS to a portable COMSAT terminal in Buenos Aires where the conference attendees may then select the language of their choice.

The New York terminal will be a NASA-developed Portable Earth Terminal bus, a mobile broadcast-receive studio with a 2.4-meter (8-foot) dish antenna designed for use with CTS. The Buenos Aires terminal, equipped with a 1.9-m (6-ft.) dish antenna, will be manned by its COMSAT designers.

Another phase of the experiment will be the high-speed simultaneous transmission on other CTS channels of copies of speeches and other documents from Buenos Aires to the U.N. Headquarters where they will be translated and returned the next day to Buenos Aires. The Rapifax facsimile equipment for this part of the experiment will be made available by the Rapidcom Corp.

CTS is a powerful communications satellite which makes it possible to transmit and receive color television, voice and data simultaneously in both directions between the two Earth terminals.

It is a joint program of the United States and Canada who share equally in the use of the spacecraft's communications capabilities. It was launched in January 1976 into a geo-stationary orbit at 116 degrees west longitude.

The CTS Earth terminals transmit at a freqency of 14 GHz and receive at 12 GHz.

NASA's Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio, developed the key element of CTS, the high-power transmitter tube.

Schedule of satellite transmissions is as follows:

Sept. 2	9 a.m. - 5 p.m. EDT	Translation of Papers
Sept. 5	9 a.m. - 12 Noon EDT	Interpretation Session One-way TV (Buenos Aires to New York)
Sept. 6	8 a.m. - 11 a.m. EDT	Translation of Papers
Sept. 7	8 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.EDT	Interpretation Session One-way TV (Buenos Aires to New York)
Sept. 8	8 a.m. - 11 a.m. EDT	Translation of Papers
Sept. 9	8 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.EDT	Wrapup and Evaluation Two-way TV (Buenos Aires to New York, New York to Buenos Aires)

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Photo Nos: 78-H-559
78-H-560

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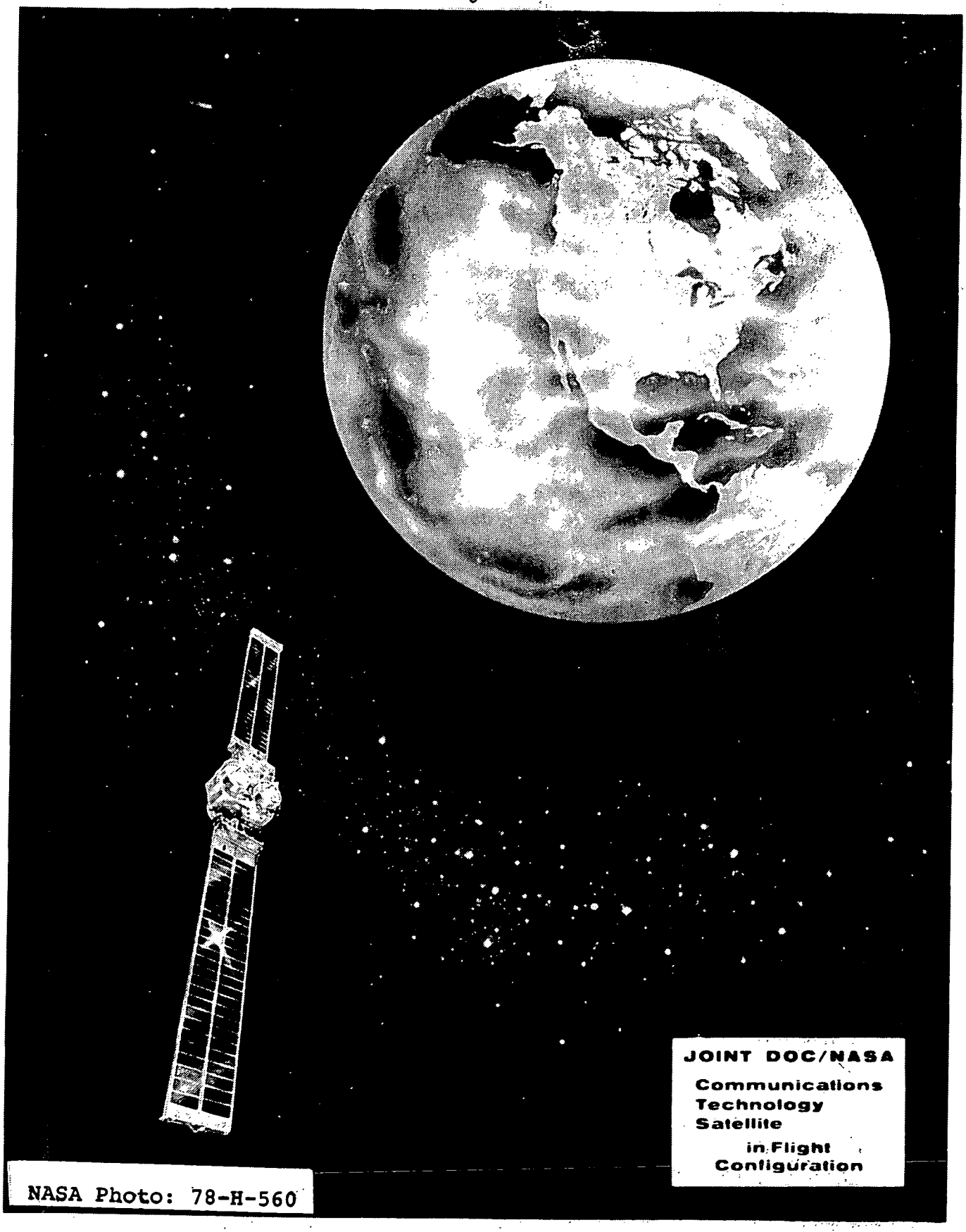
PORTABLE EARTH TERMINAL -- PET is a 35-foot bus designed by NASA's Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio, as a portable satellite communications terminal. It is equipped with a teleconference room and satellite transmitting and receiving equipment. An 8-foot antenna is mounted on the roof. The PET,operated by Lewis, is loaned for satellite communications experiments.

NASA Photo: 78-H-559



JOINT DOC/NASA
Communications
Technology
Satellite
in Flight
Configuration

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